WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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- 1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule, said molecule encoding a heterologous stress-responsive protein wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a nucleotide sequence comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, or 11,
 - (b) a nucleotide sequence comprising at least 20 contiguous nucleotides of the sequence of SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, or 11, wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes a protein with stress-responsive activity;
- (c) a nucleotide sequence having at least 70% sequence identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, or 11, wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes a protein with stress-responsive activity.
 - 2. A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.
- 3. A plant cell having stably incorporated in its genome the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.
- 4. The plant cell of claim 3, wherein said plant cell is from a dicot plant.
- 5. The plant cell of claim 4, wherein said dicot plant is soybean.
- 6. The plant cell of claim 3 wherein said plant cell is a root cell.
- 7. A nucleic acid molecule that drives expression of an operably linked nucleic acid sequence in a plant cell, wherein said nucleic acid molecule which drives expression comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a maize nucleotide sequence natively associated with a GOLS or RAFS encoding nucleotide sequence,
- 30 (b) a nucleotide sequence natively associated with SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, or 11;

- 8. A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 7.
- 9. A plant cell having stably incorporated in its genome the nucleic acid molecule of claim 7.
- 10. The plant cell of claim 9, wherein the plant cell is from a dicot plant.
- 11. The plant cell of claim 10, wherein the dicot plant is soybean.
- 10 12. The plant cell of claim 9 wherein said cell is a root cell.
 - 13. A method for conferring or improving stress resistance in a plant, said method comprising:
 - transforming said plant with a nucleic acid molecule comprising a heterologous sequence operably linked to a promoter that induces transcription of said heterologous sequence in a plant cell in response to a stress stimulus; and
 - regenerating stably transformed plants, wherein said heterologous sequence comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a nucleotide sequence comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, or 11;
 - (b) a nucleotide sequence comprising at least 50 contiguous nucleotides of the sequence of SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, or 11, wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes a protein with stress responsive activity; and
 - (c) a nucleotide sequence having at least 70% sequence identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, or 11.
 - 14. The method of 31, wherein said plant is a dicot.
 - 15. The method of 32, wherein said dicot is soybean.

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An isolated polypeptide having stress regulatory-like activity and selected from 16. the group consisting of: a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID (a) NOS: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, or 12; a polypeptide encoded by a nucleotide sequence comprising the sequence (b) set forth in SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, or 11; a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by a (c) nucleotide sequence deposited as Deposit No. PTA-____; a polypeptide encoded by a nucleotide sequence that has at least 70% (d) sequence identity to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, or 11. a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 50% (e) sequence identity to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, 4, 6, 8, 10 or 12; and a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of at least 30 (f) consecutive amino acids of any of (a) through (e). An isolated nucleic acid molecule that encodes a polypeptide having GOLS or 17. RAFS-like activity, said nucleic acid molecule being selected from the group consisting of: a nucleic acid molecule comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID (a) NOS: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, or 11; a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence encoding the amino acid (b) sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOS: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 or 12; a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence deposited as Deposit No. (c)

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to a sequence of a), b), or c);

3, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, or 16; and

(d)

(e)

a nucleic acid molecule comprising an antisense sequence corresponding

a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence having at least 70%

sequence identity to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOS: 1,

- (f) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence of at least 50 consecutive nucleic acids of any of (a) through (e).
- 18. A nucleotide construct comprising:

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- a nucleic acid molecule of claim 35, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is operably linked to a promoter that drives expression in a host cell.
 - 19. A method for modulating a peptide comprising: transforming a host cell with the nucleic acid molecule of claim 35.
 - 20. A cell having stably incorporated into its genome at least one nucleotide construct comprising:
 - a nucleic acid molecule operably linked to a heterologous promoter that drives expression in said cell, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide having RAFS or GOLS -like activity and is selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, or 11;
 - (b) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence encoding the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOS: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, or 12;
 - (c) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence deposited as Deposit No. PTA-____;
 - (d) a nucleic acid molecule comprising an antisense sequence corresponding to a sequence of a), b), or c);
 - (e) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence having at least 70% sequence identity to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, or 11; and
 - (f) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence of at least 50 consecutive nucleic acids of any of (a) through (e).
 - 21. The cell of claim 38, wherein said cell is a plant cell.

- 22. A transformed plant having stably incorporated into its genome at least one nucleotide construct comprising:
- a nucleic acid molecule operably linked to a heterologous promoter that drives expression in a plant cell, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide having GOLS or RAFS -like activity and is selected from the group consisting of:

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- (a) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, or 11
- (b) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence encoding the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOS: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12;
- (c) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence deposited as Deposit No. PTA-____;
 - (d) a nucleic acid molecule comprising an antisense sequence corresponding to a sequence of a), b), or c);
 - (e) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence having at least 70% sequence identity to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, or 11; and
 - (f) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence of at least 50 consecutive nucleic acids of any of (a) through (e).
- 20 23. The plant of claim 40, wherein said promoter is a constitutive promoter.
 - 24. The plant of claim 40, wherein said promoter is a tissue-preferred promoter.
 - 25. The plant of claim 40, wherein said promoter is an inducible promoter.
 - 26. The plant of claim 40, wherein said plant is a monocot.
 - 27. The plant of claim 40, wherein said monocot is maize, wheat, rice, barley, sorghum, or rye.
 - 28. The plant of claim 40, wherein said plant is a dicot.

29. Transformed seed of the plant of claim 40.

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- 30. A method for conferring or improving stress resistance of a plant, said method comprising:
- stably introducing into the genome of a plant, at least one nucleotide construct comprising a nucleic acid molecule operably linked to a heterologous promoter that drives expression in a plant cell, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide having GOLS or RAFS -like activity and is selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 or 11;
 - (b) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence encoding the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOS2, 4, 6, 8, 10 or 12;
 - (c) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence deposited as Deposit No. PTA-____;
 - (d) a nucleic acid molecule comprising an antisense sequence corresponding to a sequence of a), b), or c);
 - (e) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence having at least 70% sequence identity to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, or 11; and
- 20 (f) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence of at least 50 consecutive nucleic acids of any of (a) through (e).
 - 31. An isolated nucleic acid molecule that encodes a polypeptide having GOLS-like activity, said nucleic acid molecule being selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, or 11;
 - (b) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence encoding the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOS: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 or 12;
 - (c) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence deposited as Deposit No. PTA-____;
 - (d) a nucleic acid molecule comprising an antisense sequence corresponding to a sequence of a), b), or c);

- (e) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence having at least 70% sequence identity to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, or 16; and
- (f) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence of at least 50 consecutive nucleic acids of any of (a) through (e).

(g)

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- 32. An isolated nucleic acid molecule that encodes a polypeptide having RAFS-like activity, said nucleic acid molecule being selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, or 11;
 - (b) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence encoding the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOS: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 or 12;
 - (c) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence deposited as Deposit No. PTA-____;
 - (d) a nucleic acid molecule comprising an antisense sequence corresponding to a sequence of a), b), or c);
 - (e) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence having at least 70% sequence identity to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, or 16; and
 - (f) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence of at least 50 consecutive nucleic acids of any of (a) through (e).
- 33. A method for directing raffinose production in a plant, said method comprising:
 stably introducing into the genome of a plant, at least one nucleotide construct comprising a nucleic acid molecule operably linked to a heterologous promoter that drives expression in a plant cell, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide having GOLS or RAFS -like activity and is selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 or 11;
 - (b) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence encoding the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOS2, 4, 6, 8, 10 or 12;

- (c) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence deposited as Deposit No. PTA-____;
- (d) a nucleic acid molecule comprising an antisense sequence corresponding to a sequence of a), b), or c);
- (e) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence having at least 70% sequence identity to the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, or 11; and

(f) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence of at least 50 consecutive nucleic acids of any of (a) through (e).